



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Free School Field Trip sign up begins for the Festival of the Sugar Maples

Have you ever wondered how maple syrup was discovered? Have you ever seen over 40 trees hooked up to collect and process sap in a scenic woodland? McHenry County Conservation District offers free elementary schools field trips and public tours for the annual *Festival of the Sugar Maple at Coral Woods Conservation Area in Marengo*.

The popular **Festival of the Sugar Maples School Field Trip Sign-Up starts Wednesday, Dec. 7, for grades 2-5, offered daily Feb. 27- March 2, and March 5 –March 9.** Students will learn the fascinating history of maple sugaring and see how the sap collection process has evolved to modern day techniques. They will also get to visit the evaporator house and to watch the sap as it is transformed into syrup. Finally, everyone gets a taste of pure Coral Woods maple syrup before they leave. The entire length of the field trip is held outdoors, lasts about an hour and travels along a one-mile stretch of a wooded nature trail. Teachers can call 815-479-5779 to plan their outing.

Free public tours are offered weekends, March 3–4 and 10–11, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Coral Woods Conservation Area is located at 7400 Somerset in Marengo. For more information, call 815-479-5779 or visit www.MCCDistrict.org.

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